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## GENERAL NEWS.

The U. S. Secretary of the Treasury, in a letter to the Committee on Ways and Means, says, under the law \$60,000,000 demand notes, receivable for customs, have been issued, and \$90,000,000 in notes not so receivable. The outstanding amount is therefore \$150,000,000, being the entire sum heretofore authorized by the existing statutes. Of this aggregate, \$56,500,000 in demand notes are held by banks and capitalists, and not used as circulation, being held at a premium in consequence of their availability for customs. The whole issue of \$60,000,000 in demand notes may thus be regarded as practically withdrawn from circulation. The limit of temporary deposit is now reached, and nothing further can be expected from that source. It is therefore upon the conversion of United States notes into five and and twenty hundredths now practically limited to the \$90,000,000 of legal tender notes, and from the receipts from customs, that the Treasury must mainly depend under existing legislation for means to meet current expenditures. Hence the suggestion of the Secretary of the Treasury for authority to issue \$150,000,000 legal tender notes, if of not less denomination than five dollars.

At the first board at New York, yesterday, Virginia's declined  $\frac{1}{2}$ , Missouri's advanced  $\frac{1}{2}$ , Tennessee's  $\frac{1}{2}$ , and North Carolina's fell off  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Erie Railroad advanced  $\frac{3}{4}$ . American gold advanced  $\frac{1}{2}$ , selling at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  premium.

The N. Y. Tribune of yesterday says: "The market yesterday morning was quite firm for governments, and all dividend paying securities were in active demand for investment; but on the speculative list there was more disposition to sell, and prices showed a slight decline from yesterday's rates. At the second board, there was more animation, and a better feeling seemed to pervade the minds of operators."

Mr. Vincent Colyer, in his address at the Cooper Institute at N. Y., on Tuesday night, said, he had seen the President, and spoke as follows: "The President said that the idea of closing the schools and sending back fugitive slaves, and searching vessels going north, never had emanated from his administration. Such an order never had been given by him, nor would it be tolerated by him or his administration. He said more than that. He said no fugitive slave who came within the lines of the United States army should ever be returned to his master."

To the question "what is the weight of a million dollars in gold?" an officer of the U. S. mint answers as follows: The weight of one million dollars United States currency in gold is 53,700 Troy ounces. This makes 4,479 lbs. 2 oz., or nearly two tons and a quarter, reckoning 2,000 lbs. to each ton.

The N. Y. Herald in view of the new taxes to be imposed, advises everybody to be economical. It says:—"Those who wear out a suit of clothes in six months must make the same last them a year; those who have been in the habit of eating hot beefsteaks for breakfast must learn to put up with a cold scrag of mutton; those who have indulged in wine and water at dinner must put up henceforth with the pure element."

A letter dated Winchester, June 6, says:—"Dr. Conrad, having considerable local influence, was arrested to-day upon a charge of having violated the conditions of passes granted to him when this place was formerly occupied by our troops, in order to carry information to the enemy. He denied this. The case remains for adjudication. Norval Wilson, a Methodist clergyman, who removed thither from Baltimore last year, was before the provost in regard to his loyalty. The case will be tried to-morrow. He returned home upon his parole of honor that he would be forthcoming at any moment the provost marshal desired."

The attention of the U. S. government is now called to the expediency of organizing a bureau of emigration in connection with the new department, and Mr. Thayer, of Mass., has been named as a proper head for the same. "A system of organized emigration, whereby unsettled districts of country, where the United States hold large tracts of public land, can be settled and improved, is strongly recommended. In Florida, for instance, the United States hold twenty millions of acres of land."

There are fields of wheat in Jersey county, and other portions of Southern Illinois, that will be ready to cut in less than two weeks.

The reports of destitution and suffering in Ireland are fully confirmed by a communication from John Francis Maguire, M. P., which appears in the London Times.

The Frostburg, Md., Union says that an advance in their pay has been allowed the coal miners in that region.

There are now at West Point 174 cadets, 28 of whom comprise the first class, 26 the second class, 32 the third class and 88 the fourth class. About 90 appointments have lately been made, but are not included in the above figures.

The Circuit Court of Washington, in the matter of John and Wm. Jackson, claimed as fugitive slaves by Dennis Duvall, of Maryland, has reiterated a former decision in refusing to admit testimony as to the loyalty of the claimant, but permitted the admission of testimony as to whether the slaves had been actually engaged in aid of the rebellion. The fugitives were returned to the claimant.

The statement in the news from France, per steamer Africa, that Capt. Bonaparte, formerly of Baltimore, is serving in the Mexican expedition, is untrue.

The Confederate steamer Nashville is at Nassau, N. P.

## The Merrimac.

The London papers of May 26 contain the news of the surrender of Norfolk, and the destruction of the Merrimac. The Times is perplexed because the Merrimac died, and left no sign. It says:

"Here is an end of the Confederate navy.— Here is an end, also, to all our hopes of learning something more from the prowess of the Merrimac. That celebrated iron-clad ship, which was the first to test in real battle the value of the new invention, has perished ingloriously. Her destruction is announced with an apology. She was so blockaded by enemies that she dared not venture out; she was so large and so deep that she could not pursue her smaller antagonists into shallow waters.— She had struck one great blow, and had frightened the North, made New York anxious and Boston afraid, and had occupied a great naval force.

"All she was capable of doing had been done; a force she could not hope to resist was coming down upon her; so she was blown up.— Such has been the fate of the Merrimac. Perhaps we shall now be allowed to know something more about her. Europe is still curious as to how she came to accomplish her great achievement, and how it was she failed to repeat it: what her strength was, and what her weakness; and why it was her masters could not make profit even of her destruction. It is impossible yet to believe that all was got out of her which might have been obtained."

The Daily News says of the destruction of the Merrimac:—"By blowing up the Merrimac the Confederates resign the contest at sea. That vessel was virtually their fleet, her protection having formed the guarantee of the efficiency of the few other vessels they could dispose of in the neighborhood of the James river. Of late, indeed, the Monitor, with the iron-clad Galena and Naugatuck, had so far re-established the ascendancy of the Federals on the water, even in presence of the Merrimac, that they had begun to treat the James river as their own, and use it almost as freely as the York river."

"The real reason for destroying the Merrimac was, probably, the inability of the Confederates to hold Norfolk. The abandonment of this arsenal is certainly the most important of the facts now announced. It was, no doubt, wise to give up its defence, but only just as, under special circumstances, it may be wise to cut off a right arm."

"Stonewall Jackson" was born in Lewis county, Virginia, in 1825, entered West Point in 1842, and graduated in the same class with McClellan in 1846. He is therefore only thirty-seven years of age. Jackson was in the Mexican war, commencing as a second lieutenant. At Vera Cruz he was promoted to be first lieutenant, for good conduct; at Cerro Gordo brevetted a captain, and afterwards honored with the brevet of a major.

At Norfolk and Portsmouth many sutlers from the North are opening provision stores.

**AUCTION SALE OF DRY GOODS, AT NO. 64 KING STREET, ALEXANDRIA.**  
—Will be sold, for cash, to the highest bidder, on MONDAY, JUNE 16th, commencing at 10 o'clock, A. M., the whole stock of DRY GOODS remaining in store No. 64 King street, (Larkin's store.)

Bargains may be expected, as the sale is peremptory.

Ladies are invited to attend.

JOHN T. WALLACE,  
Auctioneer.

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